

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-10 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 AGR-10

EB-07 /097 W

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P 211050Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8362

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1227

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 15550

STATE PASS USIA FOR IBS, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT CB

SUBJ: JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRIME MINISTER AND FANK COMMANDER:

PART I - LONG BORET

1. SUMMARY: ON 21 NOVEMBER IN PHNOM PENH A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD BY PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF FANK, LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, COVERING THE EVENTS OF THE WET SEASON CAMPAIGN ON 1974, NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE. THIS TELEGRAM, PART I, CONTAINS THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH).

2. DECLARATION OF PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET. QUOTE. I AM HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH YOU AND I THANK YOU FOR THE SIZE OF YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE. THE LAST IMPORTANT CONFERENCE THAT I HAVE GIVEN FOR YOU WAS THE 9TH OF JULY, AND IT WAS TO INFORM YOU OF THE OFFER OF PEACE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS BY THE KHMER REPUBLIC, AN OFFER WHICH THE PRESS, BOTH NATIONAL AND FOREIGN, LARGELY ECHOED IN ITS COLUMNS.

3. SINCE THAT DATE, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO FAVORABLE RE-
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ACTION FROM THE KHMERS OF "THE OTHER SIDE" WHO CONTINUE

TO ANSWER US WITH HOSTILE DECLARATIONS AND WITH RIFLE AND CANNON FIRE. MEANWHILE, KHMER BLOOD CONTINUES TO BE SPILLED ON THE SOIL OF OUR UNFORTUNATE COUNTRY, AND THE SUFFERINGS OF OUR INNOCENT COMPATRIOTS GIVE MORE AND MORE CONCERN TO THE PEOPLES OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

4. FAR FROM BEING DISCOURAGED BY THE SYSTEMATICALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE KHMERS OF THE OTHER SIDE, OUR PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC HAVE NOT MISSED ANY OCCASION TO REITERATE THIS OFFER OF PEACE WHICH, IN OUR EYES, CONSTITUTES A MAXIMUM EFFORT TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE OF THE KHMER PROBLEM. THIS REITERATION ON THE PART OF OUR PRESIDENT TOOK PLACE DURING THE SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE ARMY ON AUGUST 15 LAST, AGAIN AT THE OPENING OF THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND THE MOST RECENT ONE DATED FROM THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR YOUNG REPUBLIC ON OCTOBER 9. WE HAVE, MOREOVER, SENT MANY DELEGATIONS ON DIFFERENT CONTINENTS TO EXPLAIN THE SUFFERINGS OF THE KHMER PEOPLE AND TO ASK FRIENDLY NATIONS TO HELP US TO STOP THIS WAR. FOR MY PART, DURING MY VISITS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS, I NEVER TIRED OF REPATING OUR SINCERE DESIRE FOR PEACE AND FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

5. WE REJOICE THAT OUR APPEAL, FULL OF GOOD WILL, HAS MET WITH GENERAL SYMPATHY ON THE PART OF ALL COUNTRIES FOND (EPRIS) OF PEACE AND JUSTICE. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE ENTIRE KHMER PEOPLE, ON WHICHEVER SIDE THE HOSTILITIES HAVE PLACED THEM, ASPIRE DEEPLY FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

6. IN SEVERAL DAYS THE UNITED NATIONS WILL, IN PRINCIPLE, BEGIN DEBATE ON THE KHMER QUESTION. WE HOPE FIRMLY THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS AND THE DEEP AND UNANIMOUS DESIRE OF THE KHMER PEOPLE FOR PEACE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE ANY OTHER THING. IN FACT, IT IS NOT THE KHMER PEOPLE WHO WILL PROFIT FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS WAR, FOR IT WILL CONTINUE TO SOW MOURNING AND RUIN AMONG THE INNOCENT CIVIL POPULATIONS. THIS WAR WILL ONLY PROFIT THOSE WHO NOURISH THE HOPE OF LATER COLONIZING THE KHMER NATION BY FORCE OF ARMS.

7. THE KHMER PEOPLE IN ALMOST ITS TOTALITY, WHILE RESPECTING THE BELIEFS AND IDEOLOGIES OF OTHER PEOPLES, CANNOT ACCEPT THE TOTALITARIAN AND REPRESSIVE REGIME

OF THE KHMER COMMUNISTS. THIS IS THE REASON WHY
OUR FARMERS HAVE NEVER STOPPED FLEEING THE ZONES CON-
TROLLED BY OUR ADVERSARIES. TWO MILLION REFUGEES OUT
OF A POPULATION OF SEVEN MILLION INHABITANTS
OF OUR COUNTRY THERE IS A FIGURE
AND A REPORT WHICH PASS ALL COMMENTARY, BECAUSE THEY ARE
SUFFICIENTLY ELOQUENT IN THEMSELVES. IT IS NOT WE WHO
FORCE THEM TO COME TO JOIN OUR SIDE, THE PRESS IS THE
WITNESS OF THIS, BUT THEY ARE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO BE ABLE
TO REGAIN THEIR LIBERTY, AND THIS DESPITE ALL THE
DIFFICULTIES OF A SOCIAL NATURE DUE NOTABLY TO THE
EFFECTS OF THE WAR WHICH HAS LEFT US FEW OPTIONS IN
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS.

8. TO CITE ONLY THE FIGURES OF THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF
THE YEAR 1974, WE HAVE RECEIVED AT PHNOM PENH AND IN
THE PROVINCES A TOTAL OF 347,000 REFUGEES, OF
WHICH 198,000 WERE IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO THE END

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8363

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 15550

STATE PASS USIA FOR IBS, IPS

OF JULY, AND 149,000 FROM JULY TO THE END OF OCTOBER.
WE WARMLY THANK THE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND NATIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS FOR HAV-

ING SO ACTIVELY HELPED THE KHMER REPUBLIC IN ITS EFFORTS TO EASE THE PLIGHT OF OUR REFUGEES. BUT THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE IN THIS FIELD. THUS A PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN FAVOR OF SOME 30,000 REFUGEES IS GOING TO BE STARTED THIS WEEK IN THE SECTORS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH.

9. WHEN I

LAUNCHED OUR PEACE OFFER WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS LAST JULY 9, IT WAS NOT TO SUCCUMB IN THE MILITARY FIELD THAT WE DID SO, BUT IT WAS EXCLUSIVELY TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD BRINGING A STOP TO THE TRAGIC SUFFERINGS OF OUR PEOPLE. IN FACT, IF ONE LOOKS AT THE BALANCE SHEET OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES SINCE THAT DATE, ONE IS OBLIGED TO ADMIT THAT IT IS DECIDEDLY POSITIVE FOR OUR NATIONAL ARMED FORCES.

10. OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ,
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WILL SHORTLY GIVE YOU A DETAILED BALANCE OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE 1974 WET SEASON CAMPAIGN. FOR MY PART, I WILL LIMIT MYSELF TO STRESSING THAT DURING THIS PERIOD OUR ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHECK THE PLANS OF THE KHMER COMMUNISTS IN ALMOST ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. THEY HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AND HAVE THUS PREVENTED THE ADVERSARY FROM REALIZING HIS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. IN SHORT, THE CAMPAIGN OF THE WET SEASON ENDED UP FOR THE KHMER COMMUNISTS WITH LOSSES MUCH HIGHER THAN THOSE OF FANK AND, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF TERRITORY THEY HAVE GAINED PRACTICALLY NOTHING.

11. I NOW PASS THE WORD TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND I WILL BE READY THEREAFTER TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY WISH TO PUT TO ME. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. UNQUOTE.

12. COMMENT: PRESS CONFERENCE IS STILL IN COURSE. SHOULD THERE BE SIGNIFICANT QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION IT WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.
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